Finance

Consideration of certain suggestions of Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, M.L.C., regarding retrenchment.

* 391 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Retrenchment Officer, the Retrenchment Committee and the Government have considered the suggestions made by Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, M.L.C., communicated to the hon. the Finance Member in his letter, dated 2nd June 1931;

(*b*) if so, what was the decision arrived at and why?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The suggestions referred to by the hon. Member are as follows:—

(1) *Abolition of all duty allowances, local allowances and rent free houses.*—The Retrenchment Committee have conducted an exhaustive review of all allowances on their merits. Their proposals, which include the abolition of a number of allowances and the reduction of others, are now under the consideration of Government.

(2) *Reorganization of Revenue and Police charges so as to reduce the number of Deputy Collectors and Deputy Superintendents of Police by at least one in each district.*—Suggestions on these lines have not yet been considered either by the Retrenchment Committee or by the Government; but a report is awaited from the Board of Revenue on the possibility of reorganizing Revenue charges of all kinds, and, as regards police charges, the Inspector-General will be examined by the Retrenchment Committee.

(3) *A general cut of at least* 10 *per cent in the strength of all establishments.*—No such wholesale proposition has been considered either by the Retrenchment Committee or by Government. The Retrenchment Committee have, however, already recommended, and the Government have accepted on their merits, certain reductions of establishments in the departments whose expenditure has so far been examined and the Committee will in due course consider the question of reducing establishments in the case of other departments as they are taken up.

(4) *Reduction of establishments by retiring of men who have put in more than 25 years' service.*—This is not a retrenchment proposal, but a suggestion as to the manner in which retrenchment should be given effect to. The Retrenchment Committee have, however, recommended that, where reduction of establishment is necessary, it should be carried out, as far as possible, on the lines suggested. The views expressed by the Committee will be considered by Government when passing orders on individual proposals.

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(5) *All selection grade appointments to be kept in abeyance.*—The suggestion will be placed before the Retrenchment Committee and will be considered by Government in due course. Meanwhile partial effect has been given to it by the order of Government declaring that all appointments made after the 15th of August are to be on a temporary basis.

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"With reference to clause (*b*), sub-clause (4), i.e., reduction of establishments by retiring of men who have put in more than 25 years' service, may I know whether the Government have considered the question of retiring men who have put in more than 25 years' service in the Medical department?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"The Government did not consider the question with special reference to the Medical department. The question is under consideration generally with reference to all departments."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know, with regard to answer to No. (1), whether the proposals include the abolition or reduction of local allowances as such?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"Yes, Sir; they do."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know if it is not a fact that the Retrenchment Committee have already made their recommendations with regard to the Medical department and they have not made this suggestion as to the retirement of Medical men who have already put in more than 25 years of service?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"The Committee have made a recommendation and they have also added a general recommendation on the subject of retiring men who have put in more than 25 years' service."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"Has the Retrenchment Committee considered the question whether it is advisable to retire persons who have put in more than 25 years' service in the Medical Department rather than send out people who are probationers?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"I have already said that the Retrenchment Committee have not made any recommendation specially with regard to the Medical Department."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know, if this suggestion of retirement of persons of 25 years' service is acted up to, how many vacancies will be created?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"Notice."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"Is it not in the financial interests of the Government that people of 25 years' service should be retired rather than probationers being sent out?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"It may be or it may not be. The financial effect of various proposals requires examination."

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B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" Has not the Government considered this question at all ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" The Government is considering it."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know whether the Inspector-General of Police has since been examined by the Retrenchment Committee with reference to clause (2) ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" Not yet."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether the Government consider that, as between the two alternatives of retiring men who have put in 25 years' service and sending away new appointees, the former alternative is better ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" That matter is under the consideration of Government."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" With regard to answer (3), may I know if the Government or the Retrenchment Committee proposes to have a sliding scale instead of 10 per cent reduction ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" Sliding scale in respect of what establishment or department ? "

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" General cut in the pay of all."

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" It does not arise on the question."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" With reference to the answer given by the hon. Member to my question that the question is receiving the consideration of the Government, is it not a fact that, when this question of retirement of people who have put in 25 years' service is under consideration, a number of junior men have been sent away from Government service ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" I am not aware of it, Sir."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I know if the reduction of the salaries of Government servants is under consideration ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" I do not think that arises from this question, Sir."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" It arises out of the question of retrenchment, Sir."

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" It does not arise from this question."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know whether, with reference to clause (3)—general cut of at least 10 per cent in the strength of all establishments—the Government have sent away new recruits, thus nullifying the recent communal Government Order ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" I am not aware of it. Recruitment has been made presumably according to the rules."

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Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" Is it not a fact that, on account of the communal Government Order, members of communities not represented in the service have been appointed, and they are the people who are in the lower ranks of the service, and it is people who are in the lower ranks that are to be sent away? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" All people in the lower ranks of the service are not people designed to be benefited by the communal Government Order.

Mr. F. E. James :—" May I ask the hon. the Finance Member whether, in view of the further saving in stationery charges, he has considered or will consider the possibility of adding to the Finance Committee the name of Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed ? (Laughter.) "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" I do not suppose this question would arise."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know whether, having regard to the useful work so far rendered by the hon. Member, Mr. James, on the Finance Committee, he will be considered to be a permanent member of the Finance Committee? "

The hon. the President :—" It does not arise."

Formation of Committees of the Council to examine the possibility of retrenchment in general in Government departments.

11-30 a.m. * 392 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before the Government to set up independent committees of the Council to examine the possibility of retrenchment in general in each department of Government and to examine in particular the necessity for a number of posts in each cadre, especially in the Revenue, Judicial and Public Works departments?

A.—No.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I know why the Government think that separate committees are not necessary? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" I have already stated that the Government do not think it necessary."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I know why, when the Government of India has done what has been asked for in this question and particularly in view of the fact that the present Retrenchment Committee has taken more than five months, the hon. Member thinks that it will not be done more expeditiously by having separate committees? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" There is no reason to suppose that multiplication of committees will expedite matters at all."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I ask whether the Government is willing to co-opt members who are acquainted with the working of particular departments when questions concerning those departments come up for consideration? "